PLUNDER ISLAND

By LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE,

Author of "The Chase of the Gladstone Bag," "Don Quixote," "Milady of the Mercenaries," "The Private War." "Teence O'Rourie," "The Green Lamp," etc.

memory echoed the now inaudible chiming, and his eyes connected it with the position of the slowly parting hands.

It was midnight and his watch on ideck. Cadogan came out of his reverie, pushed the book aside, yawned, stretched, blinked, tried to remember what he had been reading, and failed. Then realized that for half an hour his eye had been following the lines of type while his consciousness had been elsewhere; realized and wondered. Whither had strayed his errant thoughts in that period of unbroken abstraction? He could not say.

It appeared that this was one of his days for inscrutable moods. An hour gone he had been the prey of seven riotous devils or restlessness, a humor which had held him, indeed, throughout the afternoon and evening, but which had, it appeared, yielded suddenly and with mysterious complaisance to an oblivion of thought so deep as to resemble thoughtlessness.

Strange! And now the spirit of un-

lock the Colleen lay calm-bound upon sea of oil, a sea glassed and lustrous rith starlight upon its surface, and rith depths profoundly permeated pale, glimmering phosphorescence long intervals a slow and suller I shouldered up out of the south red the little vessel gently skyward

raving.

Not this! Cadogan lifted shoulders in speechless disgust and moved aft, whistling softly for the breeze of whose early coming he was but scantily hope-

For three whole days the Colleen had been roughing it gloriously, snoring into head winds and waves of ferocity and determination. But since daybreak both had been falling steadily. At dusk the wind had been but a whisper, on the stroke of two bells of the watch just past it had died away completely, leaving the full to smooth itself out and play the mill pond. The glass was steady and the skies held forth no promise of change to the most weatherwise eye.

One must school one's soul to contentment.

In teh stern Creagh was lounging,

The crew of the Colleen loved its "M. G. C." Liberal reward. 622 N. J. ave laster; second in command, cook. The crew of the Colleen loved its master; second in command, cook. Steward, cabin boy, foremost hand and able seaman, all in one—Creagh was the crew. He never dreamed of mutiny; in the double capacity of body-servant and loyal friend he had served Cadogan's father as he served the son, with affection, unquestioning obedience and unfailing ability in whatever emergency. "It's my watch," announced Cadogan. Sperfluously. "Better go below and set some rest, hadn't you, Terry?"

"For why, sir? Myself's not tired at all. What would make me?" Grimning. Creagh tamped down the dottle in his pipe with a calloused foreinger and puffed it to a brighter glow. Then, with concern: "You'll not 've been sleepin any yourself, Misther Pether?"

"No-reading," replied Cadogan, bending over the illuminated compass card. "Sure, then, there's no reason for you to be standin' this trick. It's stark calm and myself content. If aught turns up, I'll call you quick enough, sir."

The skipper straightened up, smiling.

sir."

The skipper straightened up, smiling.

"Thank you, Terry. Guess I will turn
in, then. I've read myself stupid. You
know how to hold her, if the wind

comes up."
"West by no'th, sir."
"That's right. Mind you call me if
you get sleepy, or there's any occa-

sion."
"I will so, sir."

quired, sharply,
"I said nothin', Mr. Pether.
"Oh! Thought you did. Good
"Oh! Thought you did. Good
"Oh! Thought you did. Good
"ohe shorthand system taught by "sprathand system taught by "sprathand

"Oh! Thought you did. Good night."

Below, on the threshold of the cabin, the glass arrested his languid interest. Cadogan studied it with vague perplexity. Had it fallen a shade since his last reading? No more, at all events, and even so, no matter. There was scant likelihood of any proper weather, and, besides, the Colleen was not far from the coast. Should need arise, she could run to shelter in a very few hours.

Amused, faintly derisive of the suggestion that the elements could brew a wind strong enough to reduce the Colleen to flight, Cadogan smiled, and, pushing aside a pile of books, bent over the chart table, idly scanning one of the Coast and Geodetic Survey's admirable engravings, which lay outspread thereon.

Sheet 18, General Charts of the Coast: Cape San Blas to Mississippi Passes.

Its lower right-hand corner was intersected by a thin line of red ink

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CHAPTER I.

Destiny.

Which, running a little ways northwest, ended in a dot and cluster of figure; the latter being memoranda, the former indicating the pervation, and he awoke suddenly, in a sweat of succession out toking of the patent yacht chronometer was relieved by the announcement of eight bells—sounded in silvery duplication by an invisible gong. The echoes died singing on the stillness, and the ticking proceeded plackily, as it to signify that the mechanism, aping Time's -imperturbability; were muruffed by the unseemly interruption.

This suggestion obtruded itself insensity between Cadegan's thoughts and the printed page whare on his gaze was fixed.

He was possessed of a nature inherently impatient of clocks. They irritated him with their bland, skek, expressionless faces, their airs of reliability and of strict attention to business, their imsolent insistence upon the indisputable facts that Time is ever a flying and man is growing older, approaching more nearly the grave, with each unhastened, inevitable tels-tock. Cadegan lifted his head and stared, frowning, at the chronometer. The chronometer, inwardly exultant at having attracted attention, pretended that it didn't care. Cadegan continued to stare, forgetful of his book, until his memory echoed the now inaudible chiming, and his eyes connected it with the position of the slowly parting hands.

he could not relieve himself of the in-pression that something was lacking. Something— What?
"Lomax, of course!" he growled, tap-ping the ashes out of his pipe. "I might 've guessed it, but it's taken me all day to figure out that I'm lonely. That's it." He turned low the flame of the cabin lawn swinging in gimbals from a deck ition of thought so deep as to resemble thoughtlessness.

Strange! And now the spirit of unease was come upon him again, unaccountably returned stronger than ever; he seemed to be forever in suspense, waiting either for something to happen, waiting either for something to happen, or to hear something important. That was it; his mental attitude was that of one who strains to hear a—an unsourded sound.

"That's rather deep," Cadogan doubted. "A bit over my head, I fancy." He rose. "Man's an unaccountable animal," he observed, sagely. And went on deck, into the silent heart of night. At the head of the companionway he paused, straddling, yawning again, luxuriously.

Dead midnight.

and green fire, upon the reefs caches of the gulf coast.

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LOST AND FOUND

whose which whose which whose which whose which which who who was the whose whose whose whose whose whose wh

ouldering cutty between his teeth.
dogan's step stirred him out of a
rderiand of melancholy Celtic
ams. He scrambled to his feet,
etting the skipper respectfully—as alys.

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